



You Have Power

Has the Devil Tricked You?

Does Satan have you convinced that you are POWERLESS to resist him? Well I have news for you, you are not powerless. You have some powerful spiritual weapons at your disposal and they will help you defeat that roaring lion that wants to devour you (1 Peter 5:8) and make you ultimately useless. It is my prayer that the following words will equip you with the skills necessary to use those weapons.

Thoughts, Imaginations, and Strongholds

2 Corinthians 10:4-6

For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy **strongholds**. We destroy arguments (**imagination** KJV) and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every **thought** captive to obey Christ, being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete.

Paul understood that in spiritual warfare **the battleground begins in our minds with our thoughts**. So, if we are going to deal with the question of Satan entering our hearts and our lives, we need to get to the root of the problem. And the root of the problem is found in our thoughts.

How do you begin to think? Where does your thinking start? Where do you get your thoughts? A better question might be where do thoughts come from? Have you ever thought about thoughts? How did that thought get into my head? Did you know there are three sources for your thoughts? Sure. Thoughts come from one of three sources.

1. **Your five senses**. Everything you have learned or thought since you were born into this world, everything your mind has learned, has entered through them. What are they? Touch, hearing, sight, smell, taste. Everything you have learned since you were born into this world, everything your mind has learned, has entered through your five senses.
2. **Thoughts can come from the Devil**. We know this because scripture supports it. **John 13:2 And supper being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him.** When did Judas start thinking about betraying Jesus? The Bible says the devil put the thought into his mind. But Satan can't read your mind, so...don't get onto Satan's battle ground by speaking bad things.
3. **God can also put thoughts into your heart and mind**, but only to the extent that you allow him to by diligently studying the Word. According to Romans 12:2, whether or not the thoughts penetrate your heart is entirely based on your mind being renewed by the Word of God. **Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be**

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Does Satan have the ability to enter our lives and ruin them with sin? Yes or Yes

Some of us are going to have to re-program how we think. Who knows how to unscramble an egg? It's not easy. In fact the technical term is "Pert Near." Pert near impossible for me and you, but not for God. Please realize, we can and must think like God thinks if we are going to put an end to Satan's ability to enter our lives.

Get Your Thoughts Under Control

So in our text Paul talks about things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. How can something come against the knowledge of God? Paul says here that you must cast down every thought or imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. If you will program your mind with the word of God, then anything that comes against the Word of God will be cast down.

If you don't do this then you are going to face the same problem everyday. When you get into a conversation, hear a joke, hanging out with your buds, or get alone with a guy or girl. Anytime you are engaged in a conversation that is not about the Word of God. At these times you must take these thoughts that come to you from your **5 senses, by Satan, or by God**, you take them all and bring them captive unto the obedience of Christ.

For every thought that comes into my mind, if I am living the Jesus life, and the Word of God is in me, I ask of every thought – Does it line up with scripture? If it does not line up with scripture then I throw it out. That's why Romans 12:2 says to get your mind renewed. We have to program our minds with the word of God.

So the passage in II Corinthians 10 speaks of thoughts, imaginations, and strongholds. What is the difference between these 3?

Thoughts

Thoughts are the initial thing. After the thought comes then you must decide what to do with it. If it is a bad thought, it would be dangerous to dwell on it.

Imaginations

After the thought is considered it becomes an imagination. What might happen if what I am thinking came true? What would it be like to commit that sin? And our imagination goes on, and we dwell on it. We might decide that others have committed that sin and they are okay, so perhaps I could do it too and be okay. And after we dwell on it long enough it becomes a stronghold.

Strongholds

A stronghold is like a fortress. It is firmly entrenched. Paul liked to use illustrations when he taught, and overlooking Corinth up on a hill was the Temple of Apollos. A stronghold is

considered by the builders to be impenetrable. Paul wants us to consider the power of a mental or spiritual stronghold. Here the stronghold is the result of thoughts that come to reality. The stronghold will control you. A stronghold is when the choice is not yours anymore. You have submitted your will to the thought.

Paul teaches us here is that we have **POWER** over these strongholds and we can pull them down. How? When the thought comes, don't allow it to become an imagination. If it is against God, throw it out. Jesus has given you **POWER** over your thinking, but you have to take control and stay in control. That evil thought - Don't dwell on it. Take control. You have the **POWER**. Jesus has given you the weapons to overcome.

Discuss

(This is just one idea, there may be some things that group members might want to add at this time)

Get A Thought Replacement Weapon

Since it is the thought that begins the process, be prepared and equipped to replace an evil thought with something good. Have a favorite Bible verse, or a favorite devotional song at the ready. When the bad thought enters your mind, replace it with that scripture or song. Take some time now to discover your Scripture weapon and your Song weapon and always be ready.

-Larry Davenport

